

## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

All across the province, volunteers are tutoring, supporting, mentoring and guiding kids every day.

You can make a difference in your community by volunteering with a non-profit agency. There are thousands to choose from and just a few hours of your time can make a world of difference to a child or teen.

## IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUALS

There's no end to the ways someone who cares about kids can help. Here are a few suggestions:

- Become a mentor.
- Form a parenting network to provide parenting tips and referrals.
- Coach a team.
- Organize a fundraiser.
- Promote safe, community-building activities like concerts and dances.
- Host a forum with community leaders to launch or expand youth programs.
- Encourage participation in community clean-up events.
- Ask your community newspaper to devote space to youth initiatives.
- Become involved in an arts program for kids.
- Chaperone after-school activities or class trips.
- Volunteer as a tutor.
- Encourage your employer to provide meeting and activity space for non-profit organizations and youth groups.
- Encourage your employer to donate marketing and other skills to non-profit organizations and youth groups.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

- Contact your local volunteer centre to find out about volunteer opportunities in your community.
- Visit Ontario's Promise online for more information or to contact us by e-mail: [www.ontariospromise.com](http://www.ontariospromise.com) or reach us toll-free: 1-866-ONT-KIDS (1-866-668-5437).



**Ontario's Promise**  
The Partnership for Children and Youth



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*LET'S PULL*  
**TOGETHER FOR**  
**ONTARIO'S KIDS.**

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**Ontario's Promise**  
The Partnership for Children and Youth

**T**HERE ARE AS MANY DREAMS AS THERE ARE CHILDREN. PLEASE HELP US MAKE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE.

Children are society's most precious resource. They are also its most vulnerable members. Today more than ever, children and youth need champions to help them overcome the challenges they face in realizing their dreams.

The fact is, we have the power to point them in the right direction. All we have to do is get involved.

## WHAT IS ONTARIO'S PROMISE?

Ontario's Promise is a new, non-partisan initiative that unites individuals and organizations from all sectors of society in partnerships to work together for Ontario's kids – and help them achieve a brighter future.

## WHAT ONTARIO'S PROMISE PARTNERS ARE DOING

There is a role for all of us in helping young people.

- Corporations are donating additional funds and in-kind resources.
- Non-profit agencies are reaching out to help more kids than ever.
- Associations and service clubs are working with their memberships to support and enhance existing services for children and youth.
- Individuals are helping by volunteering in their communities.

For ideas on where to volunteer – or for projects you can get involved in – please see flap page.

## THE FIVE PROMISES

As adults, it is our responsibility to see to it that children's needs are met. Otherwise, they may never achieve their full potential. That's why we are committed to delivering on five basic promises:

### 1 A HEALTHY START

The first few years of a child's life are especially critical. Children need good nutrition and intellectual stimulation so their brains and bodies can grow strong.

### 2 AN ADULT WHO CARES

An ongoing relationship with an adult like a teacher, coach, mentor or relative teaches kids that they are important and that there is someone who cares about them.

### 3 SAFE PLACES TO LEARN AND GROW

Every child needs places where they feel safe and secure, both physically and emotionally. They need safe places where they can play, learn and feel truly accepted.

### 4 THE TOOLS TO SUCCEED

Children need opportunities – and the guidance of adults – to become aware of where their future can take them, and to develop the skills they need to get there.

### 5 A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By giving back to their community, children learn to accept responsibility and gain self-esteem. Kids of all ages need opportunities to help others and realize that they can make a difference.

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ONTARIO'S PROMISE.

"There is no greater investment in our future than an investment in a child's dream."

MIKE HARRIS, ONTARIO'S PREMIER

"Through Ontario's Promise, every citizen has an opportunity to serve and to learn through voluntary action. It is a great way for us to begin this new millennium."

JOHN O'LEARY, FRONTIER COLLEGE

"We believe that Ontario's Promise is about people helping other people to help children. Mentoring, in all of its formal or informal actions, offers children a sense of caring and direction."

MARG ANDERSON-HERMANN,  
UNITED GENERATIONS ONTARIO

"Our teams are proudly committed to supporting Ontario's youth through Ontario's Promise."

RICHARD PEDDIE, MAPLE LEAF  
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LTD.

"At Scotiabank, community involvement is not something we just talk about. It is an important part of the way we live, work and do business every day."

PETER C. GODSOE, SCOTIABANK

